

programs, child survival programs and infrastructure development. We should be doing all that we can to support India's government in stimulating economic development and opportunity for the Indian people, not standing in the way of these productive efforts.

Unfortunately, U.S. policy-makers have long neglected this important region, one that is home to one-fifth of the world population. That's why I applaud the efforts of President Clinton who visited India earlier this year and who has invited the Indian Prime Minister to the United States later this year.

There has been good news about India's economic performance in recent years; fiscal reforms, market opening and the privatization of state-owned companies has led to reduced inflation and tariffs as well as a reduced budget deficit. The economy's current 6 percent rate of expansion puts it among the fastest-growing in the world, as the Economist reported earlier last month. India's economic growth underlies its enhanced significance politically as a power that will play a decisive role for many years to come.

The U.S. is India's largest trading partner and largest investor. India continues to reduce and eliminate barriers to trade, and U.S. investment has grown from \$500 million per year in 1991 to over \$15 billion in 1999.

Passage of the Burton amendment, however, would be a blow to the flourishing bilateral partnership between the United States and India and a setback to Indian political and human rights reform.

As in previous years, the Burton amendment is wrong. It was rejected in a bipartisan manner. I urge all of my colleagues to again defeat this amendment.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. BROWN OF OHIO

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 32 offered by Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new title:

#### **TITLE VII—LIMITATION PROVISIONS**

SEC. □□. No funds in this bill may be used in contravention of section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307).

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, July 12, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment prohibits funds in the foreign operations appropriations bill from being used in

violation of existing laws against the importation of goods made by forced labor; specifically, the Tariff Act of 1930. It is not a new law, but since this act was passed the U.S. Government has turned a blind eye to the repeated violations of the import of goods made by forced labor overseas.

Forced labor violates the rights of workers and undermines pro-democratic forces by providing financial resources and international support to the totalitarian dictators under whom they languish. The labor system, for instance, in the People's Republic of China, known as Lao Gai or reform through labor, imprisons 8 million Chinese in slave camps and mental institutions.

The Lao Gai prison systems continues Mao Zedong's politics of despotism. In these work camps prisoners are subjected to beatings, to torture, and to near starvation.

The United States imports \$70 billion of goods from China, often goods made in these Lao Gai prisons.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I yield to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, in the essence of time and with respect to those schedules that have been prearranged, I will be happy to accept the gentleman's amendment if we can discontinue debate on the subject.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I accept that, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CALLAHAN. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to enter into a colloquy with the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs of the Committee on Appropriations.

I would say to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN), I have serious concerns about the operation of our Nation's assistance programs with respect to Ukraine and Russia.

The gentleman and his subcommittee have been most helpful, but I believe there are some remaining items that need attention, particularly in the arena of agriculture, where U.S. policy towards Russia and Ukraine have lacked primacy, have generally supported the old order rather than reform, and have been unrealistic in meeting the basic needs of villagers and small holders who are raising the majority of food in both nations.

First, most people know that agriculture depends upon seasons. There is a time to plant, a time to nourish, and a time to harvest. No one of us can change this natural cycle.

However, it is my experience that the Agency for International Development has not been sufficiently sensitive to these natural deadlines when considering applications for program assistance in agriculture. Approvals are delayed past planting dates. Termination dates are set earlier than harvest dates. It is as if the project is being set up to fail because these natural deadlines are being ignored.

Can the chairman assure me that as we move towards conference on this bill, that we can work to be sure that AID focuses more attention on agricultural reform in Ukraine and Russia, that it improves the speed of its application review process, and that the duration of these projects comports with the seasonal deadline?

Mr. CALLAHAN. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I understand the gentlewoman's concern and will be pleased to work with her to be sure that AID makes the improvement in its contracting process that she has suggested.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the chairman.

Secondly, anyone who knows Ukraine knows that its economic future will be highly dependent upon a reformed agricultural sector. To fail to recognize this fact in any development program is to ignore this country's natural strength.

While I know that the gentleman is not in a position to commit to a specific amount, I know that recent aid for agricultural development has been declining globally, both in terms of dollars and as a relative portion of the AID package.

Can the chairman give me any assurances that we can work to increase the proportion of assistance to agricultural reform efforts in any aid package that is provided?

Mr. CALLAHAN. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, again, I understand the gentlewoman's concern. Our committee report supports her approach.

Ms. KAPTUR. I again thank the chairman.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, with respect to the Russian food aid, the Agency for International Development has not placed a high enough priority on agricultural and food systems development there.

Would the chairman agree with me that any food aid provided to Russia should be leveraged for greater impact, that any resources generated by this aid should be directed toward substantial economic growth and a reformed agricultural sector, and that agricultural projects should focus on the private sector, especially small-scale producers, small hold farmers, and women in order to maximize impact in fostering reform and allowing aid to reach the greatest number of people?

Mr. CALLAHAN. I agree with the gentlewoman, we should always use our assistance programs in the most effective manner possible.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for his understanding, his assistance,